

Appl. No. 10/057,264  
Amdt. Dated 01/24/05  
Reply to Office Action of 12/21/2004

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This amendment is in response to an Office Action dated December 21, 2004. In the Office Action, claims 8-20 were allowed. Claims 1, 3-4 and 6 have been amended. Claim 7 has been placed into independent form and claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice.

More specifically, claim 7 was objected to, but would be allowable if placed into independent form and included limitations from claims 1 and 2. In response, Applicants have placed claim 7 into independent form, including some of the limitations set forth in claims 1 and 2. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okabe (U.S Patent No. 5,262,374) in view of Fukaya (JP 07-089242). While Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, further discussion on the grounds for traversing the §103(a) rejection is moot since claim 1 is now dependent on claim 7, claim 2 has been cancelled and the dependency of claims 3-4 and 6 has been altered. Withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, claims 1, 3-20 are in condition for allowance.

As set forth above, claims 21 and 22 have been added. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider allowance of these claims.

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**Conclusion**

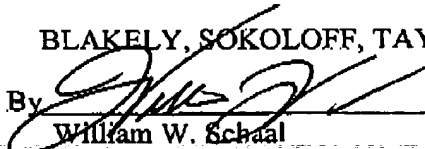
Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 01/24/05

By

  
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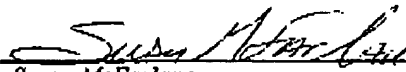
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